



WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY®

Population Health Equity

Welcome

Welcome to the Population Health Equity certificate program at WGU. This flexible, innovative program is designed with input from employers and industry experts to give you the skills and credentials you need to advance your career. We are excited you have decided to further your healthcare career by completing this program. During your time in the program, you will find a variety of resources to support your success. Our robust training curriculum provides the foundation to help you become proficient in population health management. Our goal is to help you develop skills and competencies that align the needs of the current and emerging workforce including the redesign and transformation of care delivery models needed to improve health equity and population health outcomes. Again, welcome to the program. We are glad to have you here!

Population Health Equity Overview

The purpose of the Population Health Equity Certificate program is to prepare individuals to confidently lead and transform care delivery and to meet the ever-emerging needs in the healthcare industry as it shifts to improve population health outcomes and address health disparities. This certificate provides the

industry with highly skilled individuals who are ready to advance in the workforce when they leave the program.

This certificate was developed for those who already have a career in healthcare, including healthcare leaders, nurses, social workers, and other healthcare professionals (licensed or unlicensed) who want to increase and strengthen the fundamental skills needed to navigate the healthcare system or advance their career opportunities.

The Population Health Equity Certificate program provides students the opportunity to develop core competencies in the origins of value-based healthcare, analysis of principals and priorities of population health, and implementing population health management interventions. Upon completion of the certificate program, learners will be able to confidently lead and contribute to population health management interventions within their healthcare organization and role.

Our most successful students commit 5 to 10 hours per week to study and practice self-directed learning techniques to adequately master the content. Transfer credit, advanced placement, and experiential learning credits are not accepted to fulfill any requirements associated with the Population Health Equity certificate program.

The following are a few key strategies for program success:

- ✓ Develop a thorough understanding of what is expected from you to complete each course.
- ✓ Review course content and complete the exercises carefully to ensure you understand the material.
- ✓ Plan a minimum of 5 to 10 hours weekly to meet the program's four-month completion timeline.
- ✓ Establish a quiet place to set up your workspace and eliminate as many distractions as possible.
- ✓ Log in to your course each day to maintain your momentum through the program.

Technology Overview

The Population Health Equity Certificate program uses a variety of systems and platforms to support your learning experience. To complete this program, you must have access to high-speed, wireless internet and a desktop or laptop computer. You must also have access to an external webcam and microphone when the program begins. You must have access to Microsoft Excel to complete the program coursework. Ensure your systems meet the following recommended feature requirements. Systems purchased as new within the past two years will typically come with these features.

Hardware Requirements

- 2 GHz processor or faster

- High-speed internet connection of 1.5 Mb/s or better
- WiFi Accessibility
- 4 GB RAM or greater
- Built-in or external speakers
- USB 2.0 port or adaptor
- External webcam

Supported Operating System(s)

- Windows 7 or higher
- macOS Sierra 10.12 or higher

Unsupported Operating System(s)

- Chrome OS
- Linux
- Unix

Student Pathway

Your learning experience and all courses will begin in the Population Health Equity Certificate program learning environment. You will log in to the learning environment from the program landing page.

During the Population Health Equity Program Orientation course, we will show you how your certificate program at WGU will work, where to go, what to do, and how to complete your coursework successfully.

As a Population Health Equity certificate program student, you are responsible for completing a variety of learning activities, including reading assignments, online activities, practical applications, and knowledge checks. You will encounter these throughout each course.

You will complete a validation assessment task for evaluation by our WGU Evaluation team at the end of the first and third course in the certificate, and take a proctored validation assessment at the conclusion of the second course in the certificate. **You will have three attempts to pass the proctored validation assessment. If you are unable to pass the proctored validation assessment on the third attempt, you will be withdrawn from the program.**

Instructional Resources

You will access the resources needed to complete the program by clicking on the links provided within the courses.

Areas of Study for Population Health

The Role of Population Health and Equity in Value-Based Care

The purpose of this course is to prepare you to lead or contribute to population health management interventions within communities, especially those with marginalized and minority populations. This course will give you an understanding of how population health management came to be, and what problems it is intended to solve.

This course will allow you to better oversee and/or support population health management initiatives. You will be able to (1) describe the origins of value-based healthcare, (2) analyze principles and priorities of population health including social determinants of health and their relationship to health outcomes and healthcare costs, (3) assess how population health management interventions can advance the objectives of organizations engaged in value-based care.

Conducting Population Health Analysis

The focus of this course is to help you analyze and apply the fundamental mechanics of data analysis through the lens of population health management. Your ability to effectively interpret data and command a working knowledge of data analysis will contribute to better, more insightful, equitable, and data-driven decision-making.

This course will prepare learners to conduct population health analysis by learning to (1) identify necessary population health and financial data, (2) leverage available data sets to identify intervention opportunities, (3) estimate the impact of a given intervention on a population, and (4) estimate the financial impact of an intervention.

Deploying Population Health Interventions

This course focuses on preparing you to lead a population health management intervention through the various stages from project selection to completion.

This course will prepare learners to (1) plan and lead the implementation of financially viable and regulatorily compliant interventions (2) collaborate with interdisciplinary partners to improve outcomes across the care continuum and throughout the community and (3) examine the patient experience associated with existing practices and new interventions through the lens of service expectations.

Program Outcomes

Upon completion of the Population Health Equity Certificate program students will be able to:

- ✓ Evaluate the potential impact of an intervention based on financial, patient and relevant performance data from other organization
- ✓ Identify potential interventions that could improve care in a specific area or population.
- ✓ Evaluate the negative effects of fee-for-service reimbursement models and practice.

✓ Identify the most appropriate population health management intervention based on an organization's strategic and operational goals and maturity.

✓ Exhibit comprehension of organizational performance, care delivery models, regulations, and parameters as they are associated with population health initiatives and models.

Badges and Transcript

The Population Health Equity certificate program provides badges as key milestones in the program. These badges will show that you have completed courses, developed skills, and proven competency. You will be awarded three course badges, one for each course in your certificate program. You can use the badges to communicate your mastery of skills important to success in the field of population health management.

Certificate

After you achieve competency on each assessment, you will be awarded a Certificate of Completion for the Population Health Equity certificate program.

ACHE qualified education credit

The Institute for Advancing Health Value at WGU is approved as a provider of ACHE qualified education credit. You can earn 8 ACHE credits for each course in the certificate. To earn ACHE qualified education credits, you must successfully complete each course and the survey at the conclusion of the certificate.

Nursing Continuing Education

Licensed nurses can earn continuing education/professional development contact hours with the completion of this certificate. This certificate program has been carefully evaluated by the WGU Accredited Provider Unit, ensuring American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) criteria are maintained. The high-quality curriculum in this program is guided by evidence-based best practice and current industry standards. This course is designed to support professional development to enhance the healthcare industry through contributions to quality patient care. To earn nursing continuing professional development contact hours for a course, contact Beth Stuckey at beth.stuckey@wgu.edu after completing the coursework and achieving a score of "competent" on the course validation assessment.

Disclosures

- There is no conflict of interest for anyone with the ability to control the content of these educational activities.
- Nursing professional development contact hours awarded after program completion.
- Contact hour expiration dates will be clarified at the beginning of the program.
- Western Governors University designates this learning experience as Outcome Levels 1–3.

- Western Governors University is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.



Student Accessibility Services

Western Governors University provides services and accommodations to qualified students with diagnosed disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. A disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. WGU would like to provide students with disabilities the appropriate and reasonable accommodations they need to fulfill all requirements of their degree/certification program.

To begin the process for an academic accommodation, contact Accessibility Services at CPLAS@wgu.edu. Please indicate that you are enrolled in the Population Health Management program (PHM), the nature of your disability, and requested accommodations. Your discussion and information will be kept confidential and will only be revealed by WGU to those individuals who have a need to know (for example to assist in providing you with an accommodation) or when otherwise required by law. Appropriate documentation to support your accommodation request will be required to complete the process.

We believe that education provides individuals and families with one of the surest pathways to a better life, and WGU has established and maintained our leadership position through obsessive focus on the student and consistent adherence to our mission.

- WGU President Scott Pulsipher